

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
February 28, 2022
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Tara Sears
Tom Ordway
Erwin Morris
Jake Sauer-Jones
Mike Sharp

Board Member Absent: Sarah Williams

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tom Ordway. Erwin Morris and Mike Sharp abstained. MOTION carried.

CSE/CPSE/504: Tom Ordway made a MOTION to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, second by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

Discussion/Motions: Presentations:

Chad Pooler presented as the Science Chairperson. He outlined the science courses being offered and stated that this September, all courses will be available as usual. He spoke of State testing as well as Regent testing.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there were outdoor experiences being offered and suggested an interpretive trail with indication markers.

COVID procedures were discussed, and the return to normal labs. The Marine Biology class/trip was also discussed.

Rachel DeGroat asked him to consider what equipment or needs the department may need. Chad Pooler stated the labs were in poor shape, due to age and use.

MOTIONS:

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to approve the medical leave of absence for Chad Pooler beginning March 21, 2022, and ending on June 24, 2022, seconded

by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Eilene Totzke as a Long Term Substitute for Science, beginning March 21, 2022, until June 17, 2022, at Step one of her degree, from the JCSTA contract, seconded by Tara Sears.

Mike Sharp asked what happens to Spanish while Eilene Totzke covers this leave. Mike Markwica explained we hired a new teacher for Spanish, and they will take over.

Erwin Morris asked why Eilene Totzke's end date was different than Chad Pooler's. Mike Markwica stated that Eilene Totzke's end date correlates with NYS Regents exams and Chad Pooler's end date is the last day of the school year. MOTION carried.

Mike Sharp made a MOTION to appoint Frank Morehouse Jr. as Head of Building and Grounds at \$55,000. His start date is to be announced, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried. Mike Markwica stated that we interviewed two individuals. He also explained that the CSEA had signed an MOA regarding his salary and how it works due to the CSEA contract not being finalized. Mike Markwica also told the Board that Frank Morehouse does not want to be added to the list for driving buses for after-school activities.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to accept Georgia Gahan's letter of retirement effective May 26, 2022, with gratitude, seconded by Tom Ordway.

Erwin Morris asked if her cleaner position would be replaced. Mike Markwica stated it will be. MOTION was carried.

Jake Sauer-Jones sent prayers and positive thoughts for her and her family.

Tara Sears made a MOTION to approve the withdrawal of \$45,000 from the Building Reserve Account to purchase updated security equipment, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Mike Markwica reported that the committee is working on the budget. He also talked about the new assessments and how they may affect our budget vote. Jake Sauer-Jones stated we need to be clear that the school has no part in assessing properties, and we need to be prepared to explain what taxpayers are getting for this increase.

Updates:

Mike Markwica reported we have a new bus driver in training. Mike markwica also stated that he is going to have a meeting with Fred Morse and Larry Ringer on creating a contract for new drivers to cover the cost of training.

Tom Ordway stated that if we put stipulations on drivers we may not get new people to apply.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if this new contract would have to be ratified with the CSEA. Mike Markwica stated he would talk to the school's attorney.

Mike Markwica met with the advisors of Travel Club and the trip will be leaving on a Friday due to State testing and returning on a Sunday. As of this meeting, two locations still have mask/vaccination stipulations. More information to follow when it gets closer to the date.

Jake Sauer-Jones thanked the administration for taking the time to look into this. Mike Markwica said the thanks need to go to the advisors.

Mike Markwica reported that two of our Nordic skiers qualified for the State Tournament. David Anderson from Johnsbury and Avery Bayse from Minerva attended today's contest.

Jake Sauer-Jones thanked the school for allowing a spectator bus but thought it would be beneficial to allow younger grades to attend. This may build up the sport.

Heather Flanagan talked about the Pre K- 12 Fun Day held on March 12th. Scheduled activities and a special lunch will be provided.

Tom Ordway thanked everyone for doing this.

Larry Ringer announced that Dollars for Scholars started transitioning their money into the school's account.

Other Business:

Mike Sharp stated he was disappointed with the vote for

clear backpacks. He asked how it came back as a motion when the Board voted no on the backpack motion at the previous meeting.

Tom Ordway said he felt clear backpacks were acceptable, and he voted to allow them.

Mike Sharp also stated that the Board had had many discussions on introducing a motion, and he felt this was a violation of the agreement.

Mike Markwica explained that the student body felt that the Board said they would vote on clear backpacks if that motion was presented, and that there was a discussion on the topic at the last meeting.

Mike Sharp asked if an issue put on the agenda could be tabled if a Board member could not attend the meeting.

Mike Markwica said he would ask the school's attorney, but he does not believe that to be true.

Tara Sears asked how many contracts/forms we have gotten back. Heather Flanagan stated she would have more information on the next meeting.

Mike Sharp said he still was upset that the Board went against the SRO.

Tom Ordway stated he voted with his conscience.

Mike Sharp reported that there would be 22 students attending the Archery State Championship, which will be held in Syracuse on March 18, 2022.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked when we will be appointing the Spring athletic coaches. Mike Markwica replied we will have the list at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:16, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

Date: _____

